

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 CEQ-02 COA-02

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /189 W

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R 291247Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1989

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, TH

SUBJECT: THAI SUBSTITUTE FOR GASOLINE

REF: BANGKOK 4773

1. DR. HOELSCHER, ASIAN INSTITUTE TECHNOLOGY (AIT) PRESIDENT, WHEN ASKED OPINION OF T. ETERNAL FUEL BY EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED STRONG SKEPTICISM OF DEBHARIDHI CLAIMS REPORTED REFTEL. ALTHOUGH DISCLAIMING EXPERTISE IN FUELS, BUT BASED ON KNOWLEDGE OF CHEMISTRY, HE SAID THAT ENERGY AVAILABLE FROM STRAIGHT ACETYLENE COMPARED REGULAR GASOLINE WOULD BE RATIO ABOUT 3 TO 17, AND CONSEQUENTLY AUTO PERFORMANCE WITH T. ETERNAL FUEL SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN WITH REGULAR GASOLINE. ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT OVER CLAIMS OF CLEAN ENGINE OPERATION. BELIEVES DEBHARIDHI COST ESTIMATE TOO LOW AS LABOR PROTECTION HANDLING SYSTEMS ARE MAJOR COST ELEMENT IN COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF CALCIUM CARBIDE, AND THIS NOT A FACTOR IN DEBHARIDHI PILOT PLANT. ACCORDINGLY, BASED ON LOCAL MARKET PRICE, ESTIMATED CARBIDE COST ABOUT FOUR TIMES HIGHER THAN

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DEBHARIDHI FIGURE.

2. HOELSCHER ACKNOWLEDGED AIT HAD NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE T. ETERNAL FUEL AS BASIS FOR HIS OPINION. SAID UNWILLING FOR AIT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PRODUCT TEST EVEN IF DEBHARIDHI AGREEABLE BECAUSE OF DANGER OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS TO AIT IF TESTS PROVED NEGATIVE. NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION HIS MAJESTY THE KING APPARENTLY STRONG ADVOCATE OF DEBHARIDHI PROJECT.

3. LOCAL VOLKSWAGEN REPRESENTATIVE ALSO CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY OFFICER THAT VW PROVIDED DEBHARIDHI WITH TEST CARS AND ENGINES. REFUSED TO COMMENT ON VW DISCUSSIONS WITH DEBHARIDHI. CLAIMED TO HAVE NO SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF FUEL EXCEPT IT BASED ON ACETYLENE. SAID HE HAS RUN VW ENGINE 48 HOURS IN WORKSHOP WITH FUEL AND ALSO SIMILAR 12 HOUR TEST WITH VW ENGINE AND GENERATOR, BOTH WITH GOOD RESULTS. DISCLOSED THAT VW FOREMAN ACCOMPANIED DEBHARIDHI ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO ON TEST RUN FROM CHIANG MAI TO VW SHOP IN BANGKOK IN STANDARD VW CAR USING T. ETERNAL FUEL. THIS DISTANCE, ABOUT 800 KILOMETERS, COVERED IN ABOUT 8 HOURS WITHOUT BREAK, EXCEPT FOR VW FOREMAN RELIEVING DEBHARIDHI AS DRIVER AT HALFWAY POINT. TRIP MADE AT AVERAGE SPEED OF 107 KPH. SAID VW FOREMAN WATCHED FUEL LOADED AT START AND CONVINCED NO POSSIBILITY SUBSTITUTION. ON ARRIVAL CARBURETOR AND TAILPIPES DISMANTLED AND EXAMINED BY VW. THESE AND SPARK PLUGS WERE ALL CLEAN. EXHAUST EMISSION FROM TAILPIPE WHEN ENGINE RUNNING WAS CLEANER THAN WITH REGULAR GAS. SAME FOREMAN SAID CAR PERFORMANCE TEST DRIVE WITH T. ETERNAL FUEL AT LEAST AS GOOD AS WOULD HAVE BEEN WITH REGULAR GAS.

4. VW REPRESENTATIVE NOTED HIS INITIAL PERSONAL SKEPTICISM ABOUT T. ETERNAL FUEL BUT SAID ATTITUDE CHANGED SINCE TESTS PARA 2. NOTED DEBHARIDHI KEY FIGURE IN MANY TECHNICAL PROJECTS FOR HIS MAJESTY THE KING, INCLUDING SUCCESSFUL INVENTION LOW-COST EFFICIENT WATER PUMP, RAIN-MAKING, ETC. CONTENDED DEBHARIDHI GENERALLY REGARDED AS HONEST AND SINCERE. ADDED WHILE DIFFICULT ACCEPT THAT NON-EXPERT IN FUELS OR CHEMISTRY COULD HAVE MADE RADICAL FUEL DISCOVERY, CONVINCED FUEL USED IN TESTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARA 3 DID NOT CONTAIN ANY PETROLEUM PRODUCT AND THAT TEST RESULTS NOT FAKED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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